PETER ABPLANALP JR. AND MARY JANE ALDER ABPLANALP

Peter Abplanalp, born May 31, 1857, Brienzwyler, Switzerland, the son of Margarita Eggler and Peter Abplanalp, Sr.

Married Mary Jane Alder in 1881.

Died January 7, 1934, Midway.

Mary Jane Alder Abplanalp, born July 10, 1859 in Salt Lake City, to Mary Jane Wilson and Elijah Alder. Married Peter Abplanalp 1881. Died September 15, 1943, Midway.

According to an old legend that has been kept alive for three or four hundred years in and around the beautiful little village of Brienzwyler, Switzerland—birth place of Peter Abplanalp—an avalanche swept the homes and all living creatures from an alpine plain of greater altitude, down to the shores of Lake Brienz. Next morning the residents, eager to rescue any survivors, found only the body of a cold and almost lifeless baby boy, still protected and enclosed in a woven basket. Identification was impossible so they surnamed him Ab-plan-alp, which means "off an alpine plain."

Many years later, Mormon missionaries converted one of the Abplanalp descendants, Peter Abplanalp, Sr., and his wife. When their son, Peter, Jr., was five months old, they left for America in November, 1857.

The family lived in Pikes Pond, New York, for about five years. Two baby girls were born there. They then came directly to Utah, and entered Heber Valley by means of oxen.

The road, to what was then called Mound City, cut off just south of a jutting crag near Hailstone, upon which Ben A. Norris year after year painted the Stars and Stripes. The old road didn't cross the river but ambled over the ridges to the west into Dutch Canyon and hence to the settlements that later became Midway. In this pioneer community Peter, Jr. grew to manhood along with nine other brothers and sisters. He acquired a workable knowledge of both the English and German language.

At age nine, Ute Indians, during the Black Hawk War, came over the mountains east of Heber City to pilfer and raid the herds of the settlers. He and other young fellows of Midway drove the cattle to grazing grounds south west of town and returned them to the stockade at eventide. Later on they were declared Black Hawk War veterans, and ultimately when a beneficent State Legislature appropriated money for pensions, he refused to accept one.

He played a horn in the first Brass Band organized in the valley. His appreciation of good music and a keen sense of timing and harmony enabled him to detect and help correct errors that his children persistently made in learning to play various instruments. It seemed there was always music in the home.

In his early twenties his entire family moved to Vernal. He had given his father two hundred dollars and a yoke of oxen. There wasn't much ceremony at the parting: a handshake, a mother's kiss—then that awkward silence when a man chokes up a bit. He stood there with a few friends and watched them goad the oxen, watched

little hands wave while the two covered wagons rolled slowly away. He didn't see them often after that.

When he was twenty-four he married Mary Jane Alder in the old Endowment House in Salt Lake City. Transportation was faster now—the horse had practically replaced the ox. On Temple Square men were working high in the air on scaffolding, while on the ground oxen dragged heavy blocks of granite. They were to return in eleven years (1892) to witness the completion and dedication of the Great Mormon Temple.

The first few summers of his married life were spent cutting cord wood in the White Pines north of home. He couldn't split a hair with the blade of an ax, but he could accurately trim off the business end of a secured match eight times out of ten.

For a number of years he supported his family by means of farming and mining. He did assessment work for various mining interests and did it the hard way. Two men worked together, sharpened and tempered their own steel then drilled holes for the dynamite. One hand held the drill while the other pounded it into the rock with a four-pound sledge hammer called a "single jack."

He raised his own horses and experienced much satisfaction breaking in and driving a good "pulling team." Many colts were sold for attractive prices.

He served as a member of the Town Board during the Prohibition era.

Religion to him was a sacred thing. He was a Christian in the true sense, and maintained a steadfast reverence for the authorities of the church. He read a little each day, mainly the scriptures and Church publications. He kept his eldest son William in the Swiss and German mission field thirty-three months.

The adoration and respect he engendered in his family was attested by the loving manner in which his daughters cared for him during the long illness before he died. When death came in 1934, the high council, of which he was a member, formed a military unit at his home and solemnly marched before his bier to the ward chapel for the funeral services.

Mary Jane Alder Abplanalp lived as a young girl in Salt Lake City and then came with her family to Midway. They lived in a log cabin with a dirt roof. Her father was a mason by trade, and built a brick home for his family, which is still standing today in very good condition.

On September 6th, 1880, Eliza R. Snow came to Midway to organize the Primary. They held the meeting in a small brick building and Sister Snow chose Mary Jane Alder as the first president of this organization. She chose as her counselors Rachel Holfeltz and Cynthia Wootton.

She was always a faithful Latter-day Saint worker. In the Relief Society she has served in many capacities—class leader, visiting teacher for several years, and as a Relief Society Missionary.

She also served as a counselor in the MIA. She taught a class in Sunday School and held an office in the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers of the Hawthorne Camp.

She was particularly skilled in crocheting, and her many exquisite and intricate designs revealed a keen sense of artistry and color harmony. Many of her friends and relatives were made happy with exquisite gifts that they received from her.

She was also noted for the numerous quilts she made creating many designs of great beauty.

Much of her time was devoted to taking care of the sick, visiting and assisting the needy and the bereaved. She was very devoted to her family, always kind and generous and loved by all who knew her. Mary Jane and Peter Abplanalp always kept their door open to their family and friends. Their greetings of welcome were always warm and sincere, and their hospitality was the finest.

Children of Peter Abplanalp and Mary Jane Alder:

William, married Ida Huber
Mrs. David (Mary Jane) Wootton
Mrs. Thomas J. (Myrtle Margaret) Snarr
Mrs. Guy E. (Teresa Ellis) Coleman
Mrs. Glen (Lacy Elizabeth) Jensen. Later Laurence Greenwood, later Richard Lundquist
Doctor L. Reed, married Lorna Forbush
Mrs. Diamond (Ethel Vilate) Adams.

ALFRED LORENZO AND IDA BURGENER ALDER

Alfred Lorenzo, son of Elijah and Mary Jane Wilson Alder, was born November 7, 1875. He married Ida Burgener May 23, 1903. He died October 16, 1945, in Midway.